

# THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

VOL. VIII

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1915.

NO. 17

## WHEN NEPOTISM WAS IN FLOWER

And the Picking for the Kin Folks at Home Was in Its True Prime

And the Great and Good "Herby" Dispensed the Nice Things with Lavish Abandon

(By A. T. Edmonston.)

Jefferson City, Jan. 29.—The reading public of this state of late has been informed by the Republicans press that the question of nepotism under Democratic administration has been most flagrantly abused and overdone to the party slogan, "To the victor belongs the spoils"—that the followers of Jackson are using every regular as well as illegitimate means of nepotism in plundering the state treasury. From one end to the other of the state have the Republican speakers used this question as a campaign argument overlooking the days of the carpet baggers previous to 1872 and with eyes rolled upward and their countenances artfully comaded in their seats, absolutely with a pitch that would deserve St. George, overlooked the years of 1895-12 during which our moderate Jacksonian governor, Herbert G. Bradley, and his crew following of greedy scoundrels dropped their gloved hands with the assistance of relatives and near relatives, deep into the maws of this state without any qualm whatsoever. Now that the rule of the people has been reasserted these howlers of baseness and "decease Missouri" the only are triumphant—supported during these same terrible times by the state fund from the National Republican Committee—are again pleading to the voters for a chance to renew their federations but hold fast to the manner in which those who supported Bradley observed the very important question of nepotism in Missouri when they took over the reins of administration in 1895.

How the Godly Worked.

Before the data from the last "Blue Book of Missouri," the official manual of this state, recently issued by the secretary of state for the years of 1895-14 is disclosed it will be well to state that when Governor Major was inaugurated his gift from his successor was a neat prize in the form of a \$10,768,000 deficit of state funds for the taxpayers to meet, obligations which the Republicans contracted, that staled off their burdens on some "end men of the seas" to the Democratic successor—with the thought that by the end of four years the deficit would be truly increased. The Republicans deceived no one but themselves the infant developed into a giant and by sheer economy and a wise management readily took over the burdens and began restoring the credit of this state. Year by year the sum of indebtedness was reduced until by one of those peculiar species wherein men become monomaniacs as well as ideal—listened to the sirens song of Roosevelt, and fell for the Kansas governor of Missouri, Herbert Bradley. Then again, did the vultures flock to the feast, and, when the present administration took over the bleeding and ruined state, another volume of debts stared them in the face, with nepotism as no small factor in the process of plundering.

In the morning just closed the remnant of the once mighty Republican party, two Republican state officials, were not in accord with the favorite theme of their party speakers or organs on all the important question, anti-nepotism, and one party who was a candidate for re-election to the position he held squarely tried to dodge an issue of the platform he helped to create as a party nomine, which contained a plank against nepotism, by carrying a relative though marriage on the state pay roll.

A Young Lawyer Is Named.

The Blue Book gives among its state list of employees who were being supported by the funds of Missouri the name of Donald Lamm, son of Supreme Judge Henry Lamm, as a stenographer for his wife at an annual salary of \$3,000, and according to the 1894-15 Jefferson City directory, lived at 218 West High street in this city. No nepotism there! Take the state public school department for an example under the guidance of State Superintendent William F. Evans; the name of his sister-in-law appears rated at \$1,200 a year and yet this same

man was a candidate for re-election who, under the state law providing for party platforms, helped to formulate and promulgate the planks of his almost extinct party, including the one which contains the stand against nepotism. In addition some of the extra work of this department was and had been done in the past to the wives and other relatives of attaches. Again, nepotism impossible under the Republican administration.

The state labor commissioner, Austin W. Biggs, was no believer in nepotism. Yet the Blue Book gives A. W. Biggs Jr., the position of a stenographer in his father's department at \$1,000 a year. And during the photo reign of the Kansas governor of Missouri Biggs Jr.'s salary was boosted to \$1,500 a month and because his services were so necessary to the state that unless he was on the payroll, this poor lame state would become lost in the face of this globe so accurate, his stipend was increased to \$1,500. Extra work in this department was passed on graciously to the wife of another employee of the modest sum of \$15 a month. Very strict in this department about nepotism!

Then There Was Wilder.

Wm. W. Wilder, a very nice gentleman, but a Republican in sentiment and beer inspector by appointment, found it necessary to carry his son, Wm. Russell Wilder, on the payroll of that department as a clerk with the modest sum of \$1,500 as an inducement for the young man to remain in the state. So did Sherman T. Gresham, Republican supervisor of the Bureau of Building and Loan Department, but that unless his wife, Mrs. Gresham, was used as a stenographer and bookkeeper in his department the state might use the \$15 a month in paying off some of its debts.

In the department of the state game warden where James J. Tolson held sway, "Old Tolson" was one of the pensioners. Another \$1,500 position in the St. Louis Warehouse and Ordnance Inspection Department would have been seeking an applicant had not Frank A. Wightman, Republican member of the Board of Rail-road Commissioners, appointed his brother, J. M. Wightman, to the un-desired job. Not a trace of nepotism in any department mentioned above, not one instance!

Quite unwillingly the Blue Book brings into the limelight the name of Henry Andre, formerly Republican warden of the penitentiary, who was imprudent as to give his brother-in-law, Adolph Meyer, entire charge of the penal commission in that institution with a modest salary of \$1,500 a month. Dire necessity during the same period compelled one or two Republican penitentiary and other officers to place places and other blood relatives on the penitentiary payroll and "earthing" or swapping with officials in other state departments.

The Health Board Autopsy.

The Blue Book autopsy on the state board of health under Republican administration reveals Chief Clerk Chapman drawing \$1,500 per annum because he was married to the sister of one of the chief officers of the board. This department nearly suffocated in the atmosphere of nepotism under the hale rule of Bradley.

But hold your breath, the heat is saved for the last, even the Kansas governor of Missouri was not above his benchmark in seeing that the family got theirs; the Blue Book says that while Herbert was the chief executive, Father-in-law Charles S. Lee had to have a place on the platform so he was given a position in the state insurance department that paid \$3,000 a year. Why that sudden absence? And while Mr. Bradley was in power he made it a point to see that a well known Jefferson City Republican family was represented on the state payroll through their cousins and relatives by marriage, and had not the Rhodes family been appointed generously at different times on this same

### RETRACTS THE STORY.

Convinced There Was No Truth in the Story of German Atrocity.

At the present time there are charges made continually of alleged atrocities by the Germans, all of which turn out like this story from the New York Herald. It may be true that the Germans treated the Belgians in the same way as the Belgians treated the Germans. To the Editor: On November 14 you published in your columns a letter which I had sent you, headed "German Atrocities" and reading as follows:

I quote from a letter I received from my sister in London: "We went to a general meeting of the British Red Cross Society and the minister said that if we could not believe what we heard about the Belgian way in which the Germans treated the Belgians, go to the Alexandra Palace." \* \* \* where there were ten children with two hands between the lot and men with their eyes gouged out."

I wrote this letter in good faith, believing the contents to be true, as the information given emanated from a minister, and by signing this communication with my full name I have assumed the responsibility for its publication.

A German of this city has taken up this matter and made an investigation of it, which resulted in his receiving a statement from the War Refugee Committee in London, of which the Duchess of Vendome is the president and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein the chairman, reading as follows:

Having had that many stories to be circulated with regard to the treatment the Belgians have received at the Germans' hands, and that there are many cases of mortality at Alexandra Palace, I write to say that I have been working at the police the whole of the time that refugees have been there and during that time there has not been a single case of mortality, either of men, women or children.

If you care to write to Doctor Cattell of the staff at Alexandra Palace, he will confirm what I say.

EDWARD M. KAROTH,

That letter speaks for itself.

In justice to the German army, I request you to please publish the letter in order to right a wrong, which is the duty of every honest thinking man to do in a case like this.

CHARLES H. WATROB.

### ELAINE MAUPIN'S STORY.

How a "Hated Rival" Failed to Hang It on the Farmer.

It is generally known that parlor shows are conducted for what you can draw in the way of trade, and not to help a rival show. That is why Elaine Maupin at Hersey Stage, tells this on stage.

The show is a great competitor with Tuesday a farmer with a week's growth of stubby beard had seated himself in a chair to have his white croppped.

"Please you have a slice git them off," he remarked as the Barber began rubbing on the lather.

"Well, I don't know," said the barber earnestly. "All beard looks alike to me."

"Would I went into a barber shop to git shaved," remarked the farmer, "and after the barber was done and I was payin' him he remarked, 'What old man is all beard was like yours. I'd quit the barber business.' I said to him, I say, 'Well, you haven't got anything on me, old man. If all beard was like you, I'd let my beard grow.'

### BILL FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Jefferson City Dispatches say He Will Be a Candidate.

Hon. James H. Hull of Platte City has been mentioned as a proposed candidate for attorney general of Missouri but so far he has made no definite announcement. In Jefferson City it seems that he is regarded as a strong candidate. A Jefferson City dispatch is speaking of the question says:

Jefferson City, Jan. 27.—Friends of James H. Hull of Platte City have informed that Mr. Hull will be a candidate for attorney general of Missouri at the primaries in 1916. Mr. Hull was speaker of the last house of representatives and is one of the leading lawyers of Northwest Missouri. He has practiced extensively in Kansas City courts.

Mr. Hull has very large acquaint-

ance here and without doubt would secure the delegation from this country and the Northwest District.

Joseph Miller, one of the men un-

der arrest charged with the hold-up of the Aunt Jemima mill, was taken before Justice Wilson Tuesday afternoon and charged with the murder of A. K. Godley, the Frederick Avenue saloon man who was shot to death.

The charge is made on alleged con-

nections of Jim Smith and Fred Holloman, who were also implicated

in the Aunt Jemima mill hold-up.

Continued on Page Two.

### RETRACTS THE STORY.

Convinced There Was No Truth in the Story of German Atrocity.

At the present time there are charges made continually of alleged atrocities by the Germans, all of which turn out like this story from the New York Herald. It may be true that the Germans treated the Belgians in the same way as the Belgians treated the Germans. To the Editor: On November 14 you published in your columns a letter which I had sent you, headed "German Atrocities" and reading as follows:

I quote from a letter I received from my sister in London: "We went to a general meeting of the British Red Cross Society and the minister said that if we could not believe what we heard about the Belgian way in which the Germans treated the Belgians, go to the Alexandra Palace." \* \* \* where there were ten children with two hands between the lot and men with their eyes gouged out."

I wrote this letter in good faith, believing the contents to be true, as the information given emanated from a minister, and by signing this communication with my full name I have assumed the responsibility for its publication.

A German of this city has taken up this matter and made an investigation of it, which resulted in his receiving a statement from the War Refugee Committee in London, of which the Duchess of Vendome is the president and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein the chairman, reading as follows:

Having had that many stories to be circulated with regard to the treatment the Belgians have received at the Germans' hands, and that there are many cases of mortality at Alexandra Palace, I write to say that I have been working at the police the whole of the time that refugees have been there and during that time there has not been a single case of mortality, either of men, women or children.

If you care to write to Doctor Cattell of the staff at Alexandra Palace, he will confirm what I say.

EDWARD M. KAROTH,

That letter speaks for itself.

In justice to the German army, I request you to please publish the letter in order to right a wrong, which is the duty of every honest thinking man to do in a case like this.

CHARLES H. WATROB.

### WILL EAT ALFA, FA BREAD.

And Wash It Down With Tea Made From Missouri Product.

It will not be long until when you go to the Woolworth, the St. Francis, or any other first class hotel in St. Joseph, you will find Missouri bread on the bill of fare and also Missouri tea will be served.

Missouri raises the finest wheat in the world, therefore why not—let each Missourian eat a Missourian meal, and come straight to the Missouri table with the family.

The St. Louis court is now in such shape that it cannot longer be considered as a proper measure to allow foreign people to do business in the state.

It should be passed and then give Buchanan county what it is entitled to—the absolute control of all cases that will be seen and sufficient facilities to take care of them.

CHARLES H. WATROB.

### WILL WRITE BY EARL SPILLMAN.

Boys are taught to write and use the Chinese alphabet.

Written by the author.

Written